

IN THIS EDITION



Towne Players youth theater campers perform musical Aug. 11-13. See page 3.



Take survey and help shape Garner's future. See page 4.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

Aug. 16: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Aug. 30: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Sept. 5: Town offices closed for Labor Day.

Sept. 6: Town Council regular meeting (7 p.m.)

Town Council, Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment meetings are held in the training room in the police station at 912 7th Ave. while the new Town Hall is under construction. The Town Council's regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99). They can also be watched on demand at garnernc.gov.



/townofgarner

August 2016

GARNER UPDATE

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Mayor Ronnie Williams, shown here speaking at the groundbreaking for the new Town Hall last month, was recognized for over three decades of service as an elected official in Garner's town government.

Mayor Williams Receives Award Recognizing Service

Mayor Ronnie Williams has been named the 2016 recipient of the James R. Stevens Service to Garner Award. The award is bestowed on citizens who have made substantial, outstanding contributions to Garner over a significant number of years, in keeping with the late Mr. Stevens' tradition of service spanning decades.

Mayor Williams was selected by a panel of judges that included Town officials, a Garner Chamber of Commerce representative, a Stevens family member and other members of the community.

The mayor will be formally recognized at the **Aug. 16** Town Council

meeting, which starts at 7 p.m. in the training room of the new police station at 912 7th Ave. There will be a reception in the lobby of the temporary Town Hall at 914 7th Ave. from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The letter submitted with Mayor Williams' nomination highlighted his leadership for over three decades as Garner has evolved from a sleepy, small town to a bustling, fast-growing community in one of the nation's most dynamic regions. Mayor Williams served on the Town's Board of Aldermen (later renamed the Town Council) from 1984 until 2005, when he was first elected mayor. He has

Please see MAYOR on next page



You can sign up to receive Town news at garnernc.gov.



A Message from the Mayor

It is an extraordinary honor to be named the recipient of the 2016



I am also reminded of what an

James R. Stevens Service to Garner Award. So many outstanding citizens whom I admire greatly have been past recipients, so to join that group is truly humbling.

exceptional citizen Mr. Stevens was. There are really no words to describe receiving an award named after him.

I want to use this opportunity to thank all of you who volunteer your time or are working in other ways in this community to make it a great place to live, work and raise a family. All of you are the reason we were designated an All-America City just a few years ago.

This is the perfect occasion to urge others to get involved in some way in this community. It could be through a civic club, through a school PTA, through your place of worship or through some other non-profit entity. The key thing is to find a way to give back. You will be happy you did.

Ronnie S. Williams

Ronnie S. Williams

Mayor

continued from front page

served as mayor since then.

"In one capacity or another, Ronnie has been an integral part of the planning and implementation of many projects that have helped Garner grow from a town of less than 3,000 in the 1960s to the 33rd-largest municipality in the state of North Carolina with a population of over [28,000]," the nomination letter said.

The letter noted Mayor Williams' role in helping to develop the Town's stellar park system, its award-winning Garner Performing Arts Center and the heavily used Garner Senior Center, which has become a cornerstone of the community.

The letter also lauded Williams' leadership in helping to develop Garner's commercial tax base and in guiding the Town's \$35.7 million bond program that voters approved overwhelmingly in 2013.

The letter noted that Garner was designated an All-America City

during the mayor's tenure in 2013. In addition, it observed that Mayor Williams initiated the annual Martin Luther King, Jr., commemoration at Garner Performing Arts Center as well as an annual prayer breakfast.

As an elected official, Mayor Williams has represented Garner in a number of regional and statewide organizations including the N.C. League of Municipalities, the Triangle J Council of Governments, the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the Wake County Mayor's Association. He is a past chair of both CAMPO and the Mayor's Association.

"During Ronnie's tenure, Garner has become more visible not only in Wake County but also in the Triangle region. Garner is growing both in population and its tax base, as evidenced by new subdivisions, businesses, restaurants and the expansion of the White Oak shopping center," the nomination letter said.

Mayor Williams was a member of the Garner Volunteer Fire Depart-

ment from 1972 to 1976 and served as a volunteer emergency medical technician from 1976 to 1983. During those latter three years, he served as chief of Garner EMS.

The mayor is a member of Garner Masonic Lodge 701, American Legion Post 232, Garner VFW Post #10225 (lifetime member), Garner Civitan Club and Garner Shrine Club. He is a former deacon at Aversboro Road Baptist Church.

"No one loves serving Garner more than Ronnie Williams," the nomination letter concluded. "And his record of service is ample evidence to support this nomination for the James R. Stevens Service to Garner Award."

A native and life-long resident of Garner, Mayor Williams graduated from Garner High School in 1966. After serving in the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1968-69, he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service for 36 years. He married Betsy Green in 1972. The couple have two grown sons and a grandchild.



Watch the mayor's "Great People in Garner" at youtube.com/townof-garner.



Garner's G Squad has been invited to perform in Taiwan.

G Squad Is Big in Taiwan

Seniors Raising Funds for Overseas Performance

The Hondao Senior Citizens Welfare Foundation in Taiwan has invited the Garner G Squad to perform in Taipei this fall. The foundation runs a week-long celebration embracing seniors and educating the public about their continued value to society. A variety show being held on Oct. 14 will feature the Garner G Squad. It's the first time anyone from the United States has participated in the event.

To offset the cost of this exciting trip, the G Squad has set up a GoFundMe account: [gofundme.com/2f6jx7g](https://www.gofundme.com/2f6jx7g). They're also raffling off a donated handmade queen-size afghan. Email Nancy Hulbert at nhulbert@garnernc.gov for tickets. In addition, City Barbeque is helping raise money by donating 25 percent of the day's orders on **Sept. 1**. Please like the Garner Senior Center's [Facebook page](#) to download the City Barbeque flier and to keep updated on this adventure.

Nancy Hulbert is the coach and choreographer of the group. G Squad members include Patricia Hill, Olivia Bond, Elizabeth Batten, Elaine Spivey, Maureen Sanner, Alberta Barrett and Deanna Macbeth. Their ages range from 62 to 76 years young.

The Towne Players
Of Garner

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR \$15



Seussical JR.

Book by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
Music by Stephen Flaherty
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens
Co-Conceived by Eric Idle
Based on the works of Dr. Seuss

Directed By Beth Honeycutt

August 11, 12 & 13 at 8 pm
August 13 at 2 pm

Garner Performing Arts Center - 742 W. Garner Road

Seussical JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 - www.MTIShows.com

www.towneplayers.org



The Towne Players Summer Camp is in partnership with the Town of Garner



"Towne Players of Garner, Inc." is supported by United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, with funds from the United Arts campaign as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

Movies on GPAC Lawn, Pop-Up Markets Coming to Downtown

A new, free outdoor movies series is coming to the Garner Performing Arts Center back lawn (125 Avery St.), complete with food trucks and craft brewers. Here's the "Throwback Thursday" movie lineup with food trucks and breweries:

Thursday, Aug. 18, 7 p.m.: "The Princess Bride" with food trucks King's Authentic Philly Cheesesteaks and Jam Ice Cream plus Draft Line Brewery

Thursday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m.: "Back to the Future" with food trucks Flirting with Fire (Pizza) and Jones Lemonade Slushies plus Brueprint Brewing

Thursday, Sept. 15, 6:30p.m.: "ET: The Extra-Terrestrial" with food trucks Heavy Metal Grillers and

Mama Bird's Cookies & Cream along with Lynnwood Brewing Concern

Thursday, Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m.: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" with food trucks BamPowChow and Fresh Local Ice Cream plus Draft Line Brewery

Downtown Garner is also launching a monthly Pop-Up Market at Garner Recreational Park (221 E. Garner Road). Part farmers market, part craft pop-up, the event will feature fresh, locally grown foods and handmade crafts by local artisans. The first market, on **Aug. 27** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., will feature 30 vendors selling jewelry, home décor, bath and body products, baked goods, produce and more. Other markets will be held the last Saturday of the month September-November.



You can find Downtown Garner on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Did you know
that the Town
of Garner is
now on
Instagram?



The Garner Veterans Memorial in Lake Benson Park includes a Walkway of Honor that recognizes military veterans living or deceased.

Deadline Approaching for Vet Memorial Brick Orders

The Town of Garner will continue to accept orders for engraved bricks to be placed in the Walkway of Honor at Garner Veterans Memorial through **Sept. 16**. Orders will be sent for engraving afterward with installation planned for late October. Order forms are available at Garner Senior Center, White Deer Park Nature Center and on the Veterans Memorial website at garnerveteransmemorial.org/brick-orders. Bricks ordered after the deadline will be added during the next installation, which is expected to be late October 2017.

Two sizes are available for purchase. The 4x8 brick can accommodate

three lines of up to 16 characters (including punctuation and spaces) and costs \$125. The 8x8 brick can hold five lines of up to 16 characters (including punctuation and spaces) and costs \$200. A portion of each purchase is tax deductible.

The Walkway of Honor honors military service in any U.S. branch recognized by the Department of Defense, including Reserves and National Guard. Bricks may be purchased in honor or in memory of any military veteran living or deceased; a Garner affiliation is not required. The Garner Veterans Memorial is located in Lake Benson Park at 921 Buffaloe Road.

Citizens Police Academy Starting Up Sept. 13

The Garner Police Department is now accepting signups for the fall 2016 Citizens Police Academy starting Sept. 13 and running weekly through Nov. 15. This free series of classes is your

opportunity to learn more about your Police Department. Classes are held on Tuesday evenings starting at 6 p.m. and last for approximately three hours. Learn more and enroll at garnernc.gov.



Garner Forward

Help Us Move Garner Forward with Plan Update

The Town of Garner's Planning Department is kicking off its update of Garner's Comprehensive Growth and Transportation plans, and it needs citizen input to make the project a success. The combined project will update both the 2010 Transportation Plan and create a Comprehensive Plan "blueprint" for how to move forward in the areas of land development, utility services and other areas where the public and private sectors intersect.

A new website, garnerforward.com, has been launched to provide information about the plan updates. The website includes a quick [survey](#) that citizens are urged to take.

In addition, the Town and PEG Media Partners have created a [great new video](#) about the Garner Forward initiative featuring local citizens and well-known Garner locales.

Town Solid Waste Collection on 1-Day Delay Labor Day Week

There will be no solid waste collection on Monday, Sept. 5 due to the Labor Day holiday. Collection will be on a one-day delay that week through Saturday, Sept. 10. For more information, contact the Public Works Department at (919) 772-7600.